

# THE AMERICAN

JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, THE ARTS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

VOL. XIV.—NO. 353.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1887.

PRICE, 6 CENTS.

## THE AMERICAN

A NATIONAL JOURNAL.  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY, ON EACH SATURDAY.

THE AMERICAN COMPANY, LIMITED, PROPRIETORS.  
WHARTON BARKER, President.  
HOWARD M. JENKINS, Sec. and Treas.  
ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON, Chief Editorial Contributor.

Business and Editorial Offices:  
NO. 921 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

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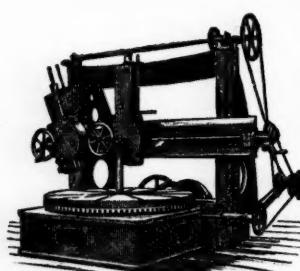
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# THE AMERICAN.

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## REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE Civil Service Commissioners have made an amendment to the rules which will add to neither the popularity of the reform, nor the efficiency of the public service. Heretofore the competitive examinations have been employed only in selecting persons who are to receive appointments of the lowest grade, and promotions have been made according to the judgment of the heads of bureaus and of departments. For the future the candidates for promotion will be submitted to a competitive examination, and the successful candidates will obtain the higher places. We cannot but regard this as a fresh extension of the system of substituting mechanism for mind and conscience in the control of the public service. It is hard enough to devise an examination which furnishes a test of any value in the selection of men for a three-hundred dollar clerkship. It is as good as impossible to devise one which will show which of a number of clerks is best worthy of promotion. This is a matter which a competent head of a bureau must be able to answer on the basis of his experience of their several qualities, more justly than any examiner could. It is a matter not of book-knowledge, or even of acquaintance with the routine of the business of the bureau, but of faithfulness, punctuality, a ready spirit and an interest in his work. But great is the faith of the Anglo-Saxon race in mechanism, in spite of all Mr. Carlyle's preaching.

THE Chicago *Tribune* is of the opinion that no other candidate than Mr. Blaine can bring back to the Republican party either the Mugwump, the Prohibitionist, or the Labor element, any more than he can, and that he can get an Irish vote in New York which the other strong men whom it names—Sherman, Harrison, Allison, Hawley, and Windom,—cannot. It therefore seems to suggest what we understand is a notion now floating through the Republican brain in some quarters, that it will be just as well to renominate Mr. Blaine, and accept defeat.

There are in this certain fallacious assumptions. The first is that the Independents have been fully transferred to the Democratic camp. They are "kickers," and cannot be dealt with in bulk. No one is authorized to say that they have gone completely over. Some doubtless have, and others have not. Mr. Blaine, of course, could recall none. A second false assumption is that the Irish Protectionist Independents are personal followers of Mr. Blaine. They are not. They will be for the Republican candidate, if he is such a one as commands their favor on grounds of principle. Senator Harrison would be acceptable to them, we believe, as General Garfield was in 1880.

IT is announced that Mr. Carlisle is not going to dispute Mr. Beck's reëlection to the Senate. He finds the atmosphere of the House more to his mind, and he attaches no importance to the contest for his seat in the Covington district. It may be that Mr. Carlisle's party colleagues will agree with him on this point. But they will be guilty of an unprecedented violation of public propriety, if they should reëlect to the Speakership a man whose seat is contested, and thus give him the power to appoint the judges who are to try his case. And if the Protectionists of the Democratic party help to reëlect Mr. Carlisle, after his course at the last session, they will give the country good reason to doubt the sincerity of their professions as Protectionists.

Mr. Carlisle says that there will be a great reduction of the revenue during the coming session. In this we are happy to agree with him. But he thinks it will be effected by depriving the Tariff of its Protectionist character, through the reduction of duties, and the enlargement of the free list. He seems to assume

that reduction in any other way is impossible, and to ignore all proposals as to the sugar duties, the tobacco tax, and the tax on alcohol used in the arts. If Mr. Carlisle will run his eye down the list of the members elect of the 50th Congress, he will find some reason to doubt the truth of this prophecy. The Democratic majority has been greatly reduced. Two of the ablest Free Traders have been excluded from its membership. The Protectionist wing of his own party has not been weakened. The Republicans are more united than ever before in the support of the Tariff. The Senate is still Republican, and more Protectionist than Republican. By what miracle a Free Trade policy is to be inaugurated in the face of these obstacles Mr. Carlisle does not inform us.

THE Prohibition issue is tearing the Democratic party of Texas all to pieces. While Senator Reagan arrays himself on the side of the Prohibitionists, the Governor of the State is going to attend the Anti-Prohibition Convention; and the old-line Democrats begin to wonder whether the party has ceased to believe in governing as little as possible. Overgrown parties are apt to end in this way. It does not do to have the people too unanimous on one side. They are sure to quarrel on secondary issues. In Texas matters have almost reached the point which was indicated in the report of one Illinois county to the State Sunday School Convention. They had got into Sunday school every child in the county except one boy, and they were after him! Texas has solidified for the Democracy every county but one, and by the help of the shotgun they are securing that one. No wonder they begin to go to pieces.

The farmers of the State are taking up another issue, which may have a similarly decisive effect. They are tired of buying their supplies of farm implements and the like from distant producers, and paying the cost of carrying them to the State, while they get no advantage from the market for food which the manufacture of such implements creates. Perhaps the threatened operation of the Inter-State Commerce Law has helped to turn their attention in this direction. At any rate they have resolved to combine and establish the manufacture of such articles in Texas, and so save their money while they feed the artisan who serves them. After a few lessons of this kind, the people of Texas may waken up to the meaning and use of the Tariff.

THE Democrats of Kentucky did well in nominating Gen. Buckner for governor of their State, even if he was on the wrong side in the war. He is a manly, high-spirited soldier; and his visit to Gen. Grant's death-bed endeared him to many who would have heard of his own death with some complacency during "the late unpleasantness." Also the Convention did well in declaring in downright fashion against the protective policy without any of the shuffling and evasion which have characterized the Democrats of other States—notably of Ohio. A frank and honest enemy is next to a true friend. If the Democracy generally were to speak their whole mind about the Tariff in the same way, the task of the Republican party in 1888 would be very much simplified. Even as it is, the policy of shuffle seems to have been played about as long as the American people will endure it.

But when the Kentucky Democrats get from the Tariff to Mr. Cleveland and Civil Service Reform, then they take to shuffling. What they say of the President may sound to the unwary like an endorsement of his administration. But when it is weighed carefully, it means no more than "He means well, and we are happy to be able to agree with him on one point, the veto of the Dependent Pension bill." On Civil Service Reform the action taken is simply an evasion. They declare their solemn approval

of what all men of all parties agree in approving. They declare their equally solemn disapproval of what no man of no party proposes to enact. And the real issue between the friends of the reform and its enemies, they leave entirely untouched. Is this the heroism of Mr. Watterson and his Kentuckians?

It appears certain that the Grand Trunk line is making ready to take advantage of the Inter-State Commerce Law, to secure a big slice of western through trade. As the law does not apply to it, there is an opening for profitable arrangements. But the plan may be defeated in various ways. One is by preventing American railroads from giving it access to the seacoast, unless it submits to the same principle as the long-and-short-haul clause. Another is by the enactment of a similar restraint on railroad charges by the Canadian Parliament. And we observe that a bill to that effect has been offered. There is no reason why Canada should sacrifice the interests of her people to the prosperity of a railroad corporation which is owned chiefly by English and American capitalists. But best of all would be a commercial union with the United States, including an agreement for a common system of railroad regulation. We observe that the whole subject has been brought up at Ottawa. A special despatch to the *New York Tribune* says:

"There is considerable talk among members of the House of Commons on the question of commercial union with the United States, and this feeling is largely due to the manifest disposition of the American people toward some scheme for simple reciprocity. In the course of a few days the matter will be brought before the Dominion Parliament as a substantive resolution and a division will be asked for. The entire Liberal party, with a solid phalanx from the maritime provinces and Manitoba, are in favor of the measure, and it may be calculated upon to a certainty that within a week Sir John Macdonald and his followers, who stand by party rather than principle, will be driven to cover with their national policy pet scheme."

"*The Chatham* (N. B.), *World* says in regard to the scheme: 'There is a move on foot in favor of commercial union between Canada and the United States and the abolition of border custom-houses. To effect this it would be necessary for both countries to agree on a uniform tariff, customs and excises. The proposition is scouted by many as a prelude to annexation. We don't see any annexation in it. If representatives of the two countries can agree on a tariff and make provision for making of changes in it only by mutual consent the free exchange of domestic and imported goods which would follow would doubtless be of advantage to both countries. It is a big question, however, and requires to be studied in all its bearings.'

AMONG the collateral advantages of the Inter-State Commerce Law will be the suppression of the Tramp Theatre. Under the old system of low charges under contract, the local theatre has almost disappeared in the United States. Traveling companies, carrying their costumes, scenery, and everything else in special cars, have perambulated the country with no benefit to either public morals, or the wholesome cultivation of the dramatic art. All this comes to an end with the enforcement of the long-and-short-haul clause, if the Commission can be brought to the point of enforcing it. It no longer will pay to transport the whole paraphernalia and personality of a troupe. If the star actors can afford to go, that will be all.

We regard this as a gain to public morals, because we think very much of the evil which attaches to the profession of the actor grows out of the homelessness of his position. He has no local public opinion to which he is amenable for his conduct, because he generally is localized nowhere. He has not the wholesome and restraining influence of home life, as the support of his personal good conduct. From the first, almost, he has been "the strolling player," and recent railroad and theatre methods in this country have tended to aggravate the evils of his position.

And dramatic art has suffered from this system. It has prevented the rise at any point of a school of native talent commanding itself to permanent patronage by means less sensational than the tramp theatre must employ to attract the attention of strangers. We hope that the day will come when every city of the country will have its local staff of home-bred and home-staying actors whose lives will be an answer to the oft reiterated

charge that actors necessarily are an immoral crew. And to this end the Inter-State Commerce Law will operate.

ONE of the Commissioners to enforce the law lets in a little daylight upon the uniformity of the testimony in favor of suspending the long-and-short-haul clause. He reminds us of the difficulty which always has existed in securing testimony against railroad corporations from the business men of this country. The people who protest the loudest against what they characterize as unjust exactions, are as mum as mice when they are asked to repeat their charge before a commission of investigation. They all are afraid of the railroads, and of the disadvantages to which they may be subjected by them, when the investigation is over. And it is true that without breaking any law whatever, a railroad has the means to punish a shipper who has given this kind of offence, or even a whole city which has made itself offensive. For this reason the Commission should exercise the discretion to send for witnesses, and if need be, to examine them privately as to the effect of the railroads' policy upon their business.

One class evidently is not going to be terrorized by the railroads into acquiescence in the nullification of the law. The farmers of the Middle and the Eastern belt,—from the Wabash, if not the Mississippi, eastward to the Atlantic coast—seem to be quite alive to the importance of the crisis. The tone taken by the organs of agricultural opinion, as for instance, *The Western Rural* of Chicago, is more warlike than we can feel unity with. But it certainly indicates that the farmers of this central area do not mean to be deprived of the advantages which the new law was intended to confer. And the farming element is so strong in America that it will go ill with any party which refuses to hear it on questions which so directly affect its interest.

On the other hand the farmers of the farther West—Minnesota, Dakota, etc.—are up in arms against the law. These wheat-growers got their lands for next to nothing under the Homestead Law. They are served by railroads which have been created by government grants of land. But all this avails them nothing, unless the railroads are allowed to tax the eastern farmer to pay for the transport of their produce to the markets created by that protective policy which their representatives in Congress are trying to break down.

SOME wise person has challenged the results of the protective policy in Vermont. A correspondent of the *Boston Journal* takes up the question on the basis of the censuses of 1860 and 1880. He proves that there has been a steady advance along the whole line in agriculture, with the exception of sheep and wool, and that the Tariff even in this industry has had the effect of checking the far more rapid decline which went on during the two previous decades. On the other hand, the number of people employed in manufactures has nearly doubled, as has the value of the product; and the valuation of property in the State has risen from \$86,874,650, to \$154,139,984,—an increase divided about equally between personal and real estate, and therefore not to be explained by the greater severity of the laws for the assessment of the former. And the investments of savings, as represented by the deposits and capital of the banks, have increased nearly sevenfold.

These results are the more notable as Vermont is mainly an agricultural state, feeling the competition of the Canadian farmer in spite of the duties on the import of farm produce, and giving every decade a good share of the most vigorous class of her people to build up the West.

In the world of industry, there has not been that continuance of firm prices for iron which characterized last month. The demand seems to have been more than met by the greatly increased productive capacity of the country which now produces more iron and steel than even England.

Even the organs of organized labor deplore the failure of arbitration in the case of the strike of the coke-workers in the west-

ern part of the State. Mr. Joseph D. Weeks, to whom the case was referred, is a man of exceptional knowledge and recognized impartiality. But he was obliged to decide against the claim for an advance in wages, on the ground that no reason had been shown for such an advance. Yet the coke-workers refused to return to work, and the strike continues. In truth it is not by arbitration, profit-sharing, or any other contrivance, that our labor difficulties will be solved. All of these presuppose a reasonable and conciliatory spirit on both sides. And the bad treatment which many if not all of these coke-workers have received in the past, must have helped to extinguish that spirit, if it ever existed among them. But they would have done better to refuse to submit their case to arbitration, rather than refuse the decision of a tribunal they had accepted.

It was reported that Mayor Hewitt, of New York, speaking for Cooper, Hewitt & Co., had offered his men their works free of charge, with capital at six per cent. to run them on a coöperative basis. On further investigation this appears to be incorrect. Mr. Hewitt, in conferring with representatives of the Knights of Labor, said he would be glad to have any one take the works, who would pay six per cent. on the capital invested, as the firm had been losing money for years past, and have not averaged a profit of one per cent. in many years. And he said something about the working people taking this offer as a coöperative association, remarking that they would have to begin by reducing wages by twenty per cent. On the whole Mr. Hewitt does not show as much eagerness to get rid of the works as he was credited with. He does not wish to be taken too seriously in the matter. For one reason, no doubt, because there is reason to look for better profits in the immediate future. For another because Cooper, Hewitt & Co. have made money by well timed purchases of iron, even when there was no profit in the conduct of the works themselves.

THE general sympathy should be extended to the workers in the Chicago rolling-mills, who have threatened a strike unless they are allowed to cease work on Sunday. It seems that from the first the proprietors have exacted seven days work of their men, and they now compromise the matter by promising to stop Sunday work when the weather grows hot. It is certain that nothing but a vigorous public opinion in favor of the weekly day of rest, and the expression of this in law and the enforcement of law, will suffice to prevent the encroachments of capital upon the workingmen's rights. And harm has been done by the breakdown of certain theological pleas for Sunday, which once were regarded as the proper ground for its defence.

We would like the opponents of the eight-hour law to tell us what reason there is for a law to regulate the days of labor, which does not apply equally to the hour of labor? Also whether the monthly wages of these workmen should be reduced proportionally, when Sunday work is given up?

WE are glad to see that the State Senate has undone nearly all its bad work of altering the High License bill, and that it went back to the House with few amendments and those generally of little importance. The discrimination in favor of beer is obliterated which is a great gain. The supposed necessity for a place of sale in any locality may be taken into consideration by the licensing authorities. But with the exception of the unwise discrimination between Philadelphia and other counties in the matter of confining the power to grant licenses to the courts, there is little difference between the bill as it stands and as it was reported by the Finance Committee of the House. And there is little room for doubt that it will become a law, as it is now, at this writing, in the hands of the Governor, having finally passed both Houses.

In the New York legislature the Vedder bill for a high tax on sales of liquor is already defeated by the rules of the Senate. Under these rules a bill which has passed to its third reading takes precedence of every other, as soon as there are ten such bills on the docket. As the Vedder bill is less advanced, and as there are

fully two hundred bills which are, the chance to get it passed during the next two weeks are very remote indeed. But the Republicans will have made their record.

On the other hand there seems to be no difficulty in passing a law to allow the Mayors of New York and Brooklyn to grant places of entertainment licenses for the sale of beer. The law to forbid this has been on the statute-book since 1773, but has not been enforced until Mr. Hewitt became mayor. That and the Sunday laws he has put in operation, with the vigor shown by Mayor Fitler and Mr. Stokley in our own city, and on the same just grounds, viz, that the Mayor has no discretion as to the enforcement of the laws he swore to enforce. So a measure of relief for the beer-gardens has been rushed through the Legislature, and a bill to allow the practice of betting on the race-courses for two months of every year has received the same show of favor.

JUST at present there is a strong movement in the Episcopal Church towards the union of American Christians in a single body. We fear the proposal is premature. American Christendom has not grace enough to make it safe for all the sects to be gathered into one body. Such a union would be followed by an era of clerical meddling in all sorts of matters with which churches and clergymen have no proper and direct concern. The present divisions save us from much by playing off one sect against another. But even now, the larger religious bodies are somewhat of a danger in politics, and are too often represented in the Legislative lobbies by white neckties—as in two recent cases in New York and New Jersey.

Besides this reason, there is another for believing that the day of union is still somewhat remote. It is that union at present would be the sacrifice of much that is precious in the existing religious bodies. Our divisions are not the mere unmeaning chaos that the friends of the union seem to assume. There is reason in them. A sect lives by the vitality of its half-truths. And even these half-truths are worth too much to be thrown away for the sake of making a big corporation. Before a healthy reunion comes, the different denominations must give some time to the candid study of each other, must "mind not their own things only" but the things of others. For that study they have been badly prepared by centuries of sectarian self-assertion and polemics. There never was a time when such self-assertion was at a lower ebb than it now is. But its disappearance has left a mere vacuum of denominational indifference and ignorance, which may make union easy, but cannot help but make it harmful.

MR. CLARK has not been deterred by the almost universal censure of his proposal to create a new university at Worcester, Mass. He has shown a firmness in sticking to his first proposal, which makes us think he must be come of the considerable Scotch-Irish colony, which settled in that city last century, and which—we believe—gave Judge Gray to the Supreme Bench. He has all their staying power, and he announces that if one million be not enough, he is ready with another. As that commonwealth is already more than supplied with educational institutions of a higher grade, and as Worcester, which already has an eminent technological institute, is not big enough to furnish a large attendance, we do not see that his gift will add anything to the resources of education in Massachusetts. Two millions similarly spent in some Western State would have been more helpful to the country at large, and a worthier monument to the donor.

THE course taken by the Tories in dealing with the attacks of the *Times* upon the Irish members of Parliament has been a serious injury to their cause, as even Mr. Smalley and the *Standard* admit. Not only did they negative the motion of Sir Charles Lewis—an Irish Orangeman knighted by this administration—to treat the conduct of the *Times* as a breach of Parliamentary privilege, but they also voted down Mr. Gladstone's motion for an investigation of the truth or falsehood of the charges by a special

committee of Parliament, on which the Home Rulers would not be represented and the Tories would have a majority. As Mr. Dillon and Mr. Parnell both waived any rights they have to refuse to answer any questions the committee might put, the refusal leaves the *Times* and its Tory and Unionist friends in a bad box. It is they who bring serious charges, and refuse to have them examined by the only impartial authority that can be had. So bad an impression has been made by this refusal, that many Tories are trying to negotiate a way out of their fix. They now wish to have the matter referred to a commission of English and Scotch judges, and want Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell to assent to this, in order that they may bully the ministry into agreeing to it also. But the two leaders very properly refuse to help the Tories out of purgatory. They made a fair offer, and it was rejected. Now let the ministry make theirs.

IT must certainly have been made plain to Americans, by this time, how unfair and unreasonable the management of this controversy has been in the Commons. What is the case? The *Times* charges certain members of the House with being accessories in murderous crimes. This the members deny, and they agree that the charge shall be investigated. But when the motion to investigate is made the Tory majority, friends of the *Times* and supporters of its accusation, vote in the negative, urging instead, that the members shall bring a suit at law! In other words, the accuser is not to be put upon the proof of his charge, but the accused are to go into court to prove its negative! That the Parliamentary inquiry would be one-sided would be impossible, as the committee would include members representing the different elements of the House; but that a trial in London, with a jury drawn by Tory sheriffs, would be fair to the Irishmen, is not to be expected.

IT seems to be beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Piggott, the former proprietor of *The Irishman*, forged the Parnell letter and sold it directly or indirectly to *The Times* or to Lord Hartington. He is a patriot for revenue only, whose paper the League bought out to get rid of him, and who has been trying to blackmail Mr. Egan and others at various times since that. Not only do the contents of his letters suggest this, but their handwriting presents such resemblance to that of the forgery, that several experts in writing at Omaha, bank-cashiers and others, have declared publicly that they are satisfied that he wrote the letter.

THE observance of the Queen's Jubilee in England brings into light the strongly commercial character of the nation, and of its modes of thought. That a big display on the streets of London would not be quite enough, was felt from the first. The only other way to mark the popular feeling is to collect a great sum of money; and as this occasion is to be the act of the whole English people, one and all must give. In old times the rulers bestowed gifts upon the people at such a time. Now the people must give to their rulers, and all sorts of social pressure is employed to secure the universality and amplitude of this giving. In the military barracks schedules are posted as to the sums expected from men and officers, proportionally to their pay. District visiting is employed by fine ladies to extract the nimble sixpence from the washerwoman and the huckster. And a tinge of meanness is given to the whole occasion, at which the good taste of the best people in England revolts. It is felt that England confesses her poverty of social resource, when only money can serve as an adequate channel for the expression of a great emotion.

What is to be done with the money, nobody knows. That is to be left to her gracious majesty. If she were to exhibit good sense and give it to the erection of needed charities like hospitals, the Jubilee would have a lasting memorial. But it is reported that a part of it will be used to duplicate an ugly statue of Albert the Good, which is now at Glasgow. Great Britain surely has monuments enough to that good but overrated Prince. And a better monument to him would be an investment in East London like the Peabody Homes, or Mr. Besant's People's Palace.

#### THE HENCHMAN IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

THE discussion over the question whether Mr. Cleveland will accept are nomination, brings out anew a feature of our political system which is often ignored. It is the importance of second-hand ambitions. That Mr. Cleveland would rather be rid of the job of being President we entirely believe. That the great mass of his party have no wish to renominate him, seems well ascertained. And yet the prospect is that he will be the candidate of the party, in spite of both himself and it. In part this likelihood is due to the support given him by the ex-Republicans, whom the Democrats fear to alienate. But in much greater measure it is due to the "friends" of the President, who are using every energy to keep their man in power. Nobody was so much frightened by the talk of the refusal of a renomination as was Mr. Daniel Lamont. Mr. Lamont is a big man in these days. He was not much known or heard of before his patron became President. But he has grown immensely since that time. He is the President's secretary. When he goes anywhere, or talks to anybody, it means something. The newspapers chronicle the fact; the habitues of the clubs canvass its significance. And Mr. Lamont would not be human if this did not add to his happiness, and if he did not wish it to last as long as possible. He wants Mr. Cleveland re-elected by all means, for Mr. Daniel Lamont would be re-elected with him.

We have no dislike of Mr. Lamont. We think the President's choice of a secretary as good as any he has made. We only take him as the type of the men who gathers around every person in high office and derive importance from his importance. Such abound in both parties. They cling as closely and as hopefully to possible as to actual presidents. They constitute the fighting and working kernel in the body of a candidate's supporters. They are not of necessity governed by bad motives; they even may have some genuine enthusiasm for the man they are pushing to the front. But their judgment is not to be trusted, nor their influence to be cherished. And this is true especially of the friends of men naturally popular and attractive. They gather like flies, and shout like an army, and it takes the to-morrow of an election day to discover to them that they are not the American people.

The Republican party is in much greater danger at this moment from the henchman in politics, than is the Democratic. After all, Mr. Lamont is right. Mr. Cleveland is the Democratic party's best hold. He has not been a good president, but he has been about as satisfactory as a Democrat could be. He would go into a second campaign with much less to carry than in the first, the tariff only excepted. His marriage with an amiable and beautiful woman, who has shown admirable good sense as mistress of the White House, has strengthened him at his weakest point as regards popularity. Who there is that would make a better Democratic candidate than Mr. Lamont's man, we do not know. Certainly not Mr. Bayard, nor Mr. Carlisle, nor Mr. Lamar.

But never in its history did so much hang upon a good choice of a candidate for the Republican party. A defeat now may cost the country an indefinite prolongation of Democratic rule, the reconstruction of the Supreme Court on States Rights principles, the crippling of the tariff, and an indefinite postponement of the revival of our merchant marine, and many other needed pieces of legislation. And just at present the means to effect this defeat are very plentiful within the party, the henchman being the most notable. After all is said, public opinion, except when great popular sympathies are aroused, is apt to be the opinion of the two or three score of people who talk loudest and talk together. They soon impress upon the weaker minds the notion that "that is what everybody is saying." They save a pile of trouble to those amiable people who wait to have their minds made up for them. They gather strength and bulk by mere force of movement sometimes, until the better judgment of the community has no chance to exert itself.

And they are our present danger.

MODERN PALESTINE.<sup>1</sup>

IN the work of Mr. Laurence Oliphant, one is made to feel the difference between the tourist and the traveler. Shunning guide books and sign posts, and laying aside the insular superiority which prevents most Englishmen from being real travelers, Mr. Oliphant has gone through the world with his eyes, and his ears, and his heart open, and can tell us of Russia, or Canada, or China, or Japan, in a way that is given to few. But Palestine is his strongest love. To get it out of the hands of rascally Turks and greedy Syrians is his aim. To see it colonized by devout Christians and enfranchised Israelites is his dream. This constantly reappears in these letters, originally addressed to the New York *Sun*. And as they were written at a time when the Eastern Question was wide open, it had a flavor of possibility at least.

It is a very difficult matter to give any sort of a résumé of a book of 369 pages, made up of letters two or three pages in length and on diverse topics. The most we can do is to pick out a few interesting points. He has a great deal to tell about the colonies, in whose success he is so warmly interested, and whose establishment he has done so much to promote. Sixteen miles south of Carmel is a tract of land purchased by the Central Jewish Colonization Society, of Roumania. It consists of 1,000 acres of pasture and arable land which was kept by the Fellah until the colonists were accustomed to the work. The colonists and the natives got along very well together, religious disputes being unknown, though quarrels about wages are not infrequent. There are now altogether nine Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine and they are mostly in good condition. In Galilee about 1,000 European Israelites are settled and in the neighborhood of Jaffa is the splendid Agricultural College founded by the *Alliance Israélite Universelle*. Another interesting set of colonies are those of the Temple Society. This Society numbers about 5,000 persons, of whom about 1,000 are in Palestine, 300 in America, and the rest in Germany. It was founded by Professor Christoph Hoffman, of Würtemberg, a kind of second Adventist, who lays much stress on moral life and little on church government. They have four colonies in all, one of which is at Sarona, an hour's travel from Jaffa. And the other in the neighborhood of Jerusalem, where Professor Hoffman now resides. Mr. Oliphant is strong in his praise of these good people, and of their effect on the morals of the surrounding Arabs. In fact our author is inclined to regard the Germans as the best colonists in Palestine. Haifa, which was his base of operations for over three years, was almost made by them, and it is as clean and orderly and well kept as a European town of the same size. As an evidence of its commercial importance we are informed that 50,000 pounds of olive-oil soap are annually exported from Haifa to New York. Moreover a railway is projected through the country. But the government stands in the way of everything. To Jewish colonization the Turk is decidedly hostile, and every land concession has to be obtained by bulldozing and bribery. For grants to German colonists the former suffices, for reasons not necessary to mention. Nevertheless, Palestine is rapidly advancing in agriculture, and the country is becoming both fertile and secure. There are many snatches of description, in the book, which give an excellent insight into the life of the motley company who make up the population of Palestine. When we hear of steam tugs on Lake Genesareth, of Christian fêtes celebrated in the old time Fourth of July fashion, ("holy sprees" our author calls them), of Druse women who wear "bangs," of wealthy Syrians with piano and chairs in their parlors, and the constant tendency to fall back into more primitive ways in other parts of the house, we cannot help but feel that the leaven of civilization is again at work in the Holy Land.

Besides dealing with modern life in Palestine, Mr. Oliphant has essayed to popularize the most important recent archaeological discoveries, but he is either not sufficiently well informed, or not sufficiently accurate to make this part of the work as valuable as the rest. What he says, for example, about early synagogal architecture is by no means made out, his whole treatment of the subject presenting a species of argument in a circle. Dean Stanley was the only modern writer, we believe, who did not accept Sir Henry Rawlinson's theory that Mugheir was the ancient Ur of the Chaldees, an identification so important that it should have been mentioned even if Mr. Oliphant joined Dean Stanley in rejecting it. Again, Mr. Oliphant tells at some length of the sacred Samaritan records, and seems to think that it would be of great benefit to Biblical study if we could get hold of them. This, however, is not very likely. In 1868 Dr. Petermann collated the whole of the Samaritan version of the Hebrew Pentateuch, and while he discovered many variants, found none of any very great importance. Mr. Oliphant would have done Semitic scholarship

a much greater service if he had carefully noted the Samaritan pronunciation of Hebrew, either confirming or disputing the account of their pronunciation which Petermann had furnished us.

However, we do not mean to quarrel with our genial author. A man cannot be brave, and wise, and good, and generous, and entertaining, and know everything besides. Jericho has become a great health resort and to be told to "go" there is acquiring quite a new meaning. The climate is bracing and salubrious, and so, if Mr. Oliphant tells us to go to Jericho we will cheerfully accept the invitation.

C. A.

ELECTRICAL PROGRESS IN A HUNDRED YEARS.<sup>1</sup>

THE practical application of our knowledge of electricity has substantially all been made inside of a century. It is true that the Leyden jar, the fore-runner of much of our present apparatus, was invented in 1745, and that Franklin, inspired by the suggestions of his London friend Peter Collinson, began his famous experiments in 1747. Yet these were tentative,—mere excursions into a vast and unknown field. The Philadelphia philosopher with his kite, drawing down the lightning from the rain-storm, was, like other investigators,—Stephen Gray, Dufay, Sir William Watson, Coulomb, and many more,—simply collecting data from which future workers would be enabled to construct a practical result. Up to the time of Galvani, just a century ago, nothing of value except Franklin's lightning-rod had been evolved, and the "New Electricity," as Prof. Mendenhall names it, was waiting for the knowledge and skill of new men.

Galvani, an Italian physician, on the 20th September, 1786, observed by chance the muscular convulsions produced in the limb of a frog, suspended on an iron railing by means of copper hooks. This gave an important clue, which Volta, a countryman of Galvani, followed up to the construction of the "pile," and then of the "battery," this last our most important instrument to-day in the ordinary application of electricity. From Volta's one contribution has grown our present great store of electrical knowledge,—not, by any means, that all rests upon it, but that all was evolved through the beginning thus made. By 1800 two Englishmen, Nicholson and Carlisle, successfully made a most important experiment, the decomposition of water into its two gases, by means of the current from a voltaic "battery."

From the beginning of the century there rapidly follow the most distinguished names. Humphrey Davy began almost immediately his series of experiments on the decomposition of chemical compounds by the electric current, and within a few years he had decomposed several of the so-called "fixed alkalies," and obtained their metal bases in a pure state. In 1810 he had erected at the Royal Institution in London by far the most powerful battery constructed up to that time, and with it produced the first electric light of high power ever constructed,—though he had produced incandescence in carbon some years earlier. He also made many valuable experiments in melting refractory substances with the battery, and succeeded in fusing platinum, quartz, sapphires, diamonds, etc. The current which he used was however so enormously expensive as entirely to preclude its use for practical commercial purposes, and the electric light had to wait for new inventions to make it practicable for any except experimental purposes.

The distinctly modern stage of electrical science may perhaps with propriety be placed as beginning with the discovery of the identity of the magnetic force and the electric current. The credit of this discovery belongs to Oersted, a Dane, professor of physics in the University of Copenhagen, who deflected a magnetic needle by an electric current. He shortly after published his discoveries, and they immediately found a rich soil in which to fructify. Ampère, a French chemist and physicist, within one week after reading of Oersted's experiments, presented a paper to the French Academy, outlining some of the most valuable discoveries of the century in electrical science, among them that the electric current could not only affect a magnet, but produce magnetism. This discovery was the birth of the electro-magnet, and after this instrument had been perfected by the labors of various experimenters, including as one of the most distinguished our own Prof. Henry, the field was cleared for the magneto-electric telegraph. The names of great inventors in this field are too numerous to be separately given, but it may be well to mention that they were not, as seems to be the prevailing opinion in this country, all American, nor was the first successful telegraph an American invention. Schilling in Russia, and Gauss and Weber at Göttingen had erected successful lines, before Morse, in 1837, first transmitted messages. Morse's system has however steadily grown in popularity until it has almost entirely displaced all others, though for a long time the system of Wheatstone was the prevailing one in England. In subse-

<sup>1</sup> HAIFA, OR LIFE IN MODERN PALESTINE. By Laurence Oliphant. Edited with introduction, by Charles A. Dana. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1887.

<sup>1</sup> A CENTURY OF ELECTRICITY. By T. C. Mendenhall. 16 mo. Pp. 229. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1887.

quent improvements and additional inventions in the same line, including the numerous devices for duplex and multiplex telegraphy, American inventive genius has always kept in the front rank, and as is well known, the burden of establishing the first trans-oceanic cable line was borne by the energy of an American, Mr. Cyrus W. Field.

Of the innumerable applications of electricity in the last half-century which deserve notice, we can only select one as the most prominent—the discovery by Faraday that currents of electricity were induced by moving an armature through the "magnetic field" of a magnet. This is the principle which is made use of in all the dynamo-electric machines of to-day, and it is its discovery which has made electric lighting practicable as a business operation. When Sir Humphry Davy passed his powerful battery-current through two pieces of carbon, he had practically the arc-light of the present day, but at a cost so enormous as utterly to preclude its use when questions of economy were of any importance. On the other hand some of the dynamo-electric machines of to-day are among the most economical consumers of energy known. On another aspect of this style of machine depends another large part of the electrical progress of the time. Instead of inducing currents by producing motion of the armature, the machine may be made to produce motion of the armature by passing currents through it, and will thus either transmute electrical into mechanical force or vice versa. Although the principle has not yet received large practical development, it looms up in the future as one of the most promising fields for the application of electricity. Mechanical motion may be turned into an electric current where force is cheap, as at some enormous waterfall far from cities or railroads, and cheaply transmitted by wires to where it is wanted. In the meantime not a few practical applications of the electric motor have been made. Several street railways are run by it, and in some of our large cities small electric motors are quite extensively used by hiring energy from the electric light companies. But as we said this branch of electric science has the future.

We regret not being able to touch on the telephone, and other prominent applications of electricity which Prof. Mendenhall treats of, but which we have been obliged to pass by. We can only refer to the book for fuller treatment of this very interesting subject. Prof. Mendenhall has restricted himself to rather narrow limits in the treatment of such a large subject, but he has compressed his matter to the utmost, and has produced a very satisfactorily full treatment of the subject for those who do not wish to investigate as specialists. His name is a guarantee of the reliability of the information, and the book may be safely recommended to all.

#### WEEKLY NOTES.

SOME of our learned friends, including the *Beacon*, of Boston, have been indulging in their quip and jest at the expense of THE AMERICAN, for having spoken, in a recent paragraph anent the Concord School of Philosophy, of Aristotle as "the Sybarite." That we did do so is unfortunately too true, and the ordinary explanation of such a slip appears to be unavailable, compositor and proof-reader having both followed copy with a fidelity only too exact. That Aristotle was a Sybarite we do not believe, and we therefore cheerfully concede to the critics the fitness of their attempt to disabuse the public mind of any false impression which our paragraph may have caused.

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THE April number of the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* contains an article on the present state of education in Egypt, by H. Cunynghame, Esq., and a valuable paper by Guy Le Strange on the description of the noble sanctuary at Jerusalem, in 1470, A. D., by Kamāl (or Shamo), ad Din. The text and translation of some of the more important passages are given. The whole work was translated, very inaccurately however, by Rev. J. B. Reynolds, (Oriental Translation Fund of Great Britain and Ireland, London, 1836). Under Notes of the Quarter the Society publishes a statement detailing the condition of Oriental studies in the United Kingdom, with a table showing persons holding positions, salaries paid, etc.

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THE last number of the *Scottish Review* contains an article by the Rev. A. Löwy, entitled "The Apocryphal Character of the Moabite Stone," which is destined to raise considerable discussion. The writer asserts that both internal and external evidence show that the stone is a fraudulent fabrication. The external evidence is the alleged fact that while the stone itself shows evidence of age, no such evidence is to be found in the characters,—a thing hardly to be expected if they are 2800 years old. Much of the matter brought forth would be called—did not politeness forbid—non-

sense; nevertheless some of the points are well taken and will necessitate a careful restudy. Dr. Löwy's range of scholarship is too narrow however to make his opinion on the internal evidence valuable, and as for the external evidence we prefer to wait with Dr. Neubauer and see what "the Paris palaeographers will have to say" about the subject.

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GENERAL SHERMAN has had an article in the *North American Review*, in criticism of that of Lord Wolseley in *Macmillan's Magazine*, in which General Lee was so extravagantly praised. The estimate of General Sherman is that not only Grant, but George H. Thomas was a greater soldier than Lee. He considers Lee weak in three respects: his adhesion to the idea of State allegiance, instead of national; his lack of the aggressive quality, which "in war is the true and proper test;" and his sticking to Virginia until there was nothing left but surrender. Of course, Thomas's conduct, as a Virginian, in adhering to the Union, General Sherman regards as one strong point of superiority over General Lee. "Many of us," Sherman says, "believe that had Lee stood firm in 1861 and used his personal influence, he could have stayed the Civil War."

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THE effect of the labors of Mr. Herbert Welsh in behalf of the Chiricahua Apaches is seen in the action of the Government in sending them from their crowded quarters at Fort Marion to Mount Vernon Barracks, a military reservation near Mobile, Alabama. Whether this is a good place for them in climatic respects would seem doubtful, the low gulf country of southern Alabama being a great contrast to the mountain regions they came from, but at least they will have ample space to spread out on, for the present, there being upwards of 2,000 acres in the reservation.

#### COMMERCIAL UNION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. A DISCUSSION.

##### III.

##### LETTER FROM HON. R. W. TOWNSHEND, REPRESENTATIVE IN U. S. CONGRESS.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

IN view of the complete success and immensely beneficial results to the people of the German speaking nations that followed the establishment of free commerce among them with a common basis of customs duties against all other countries by the formation of the Zollverein or Customs Union; and also of the wonderful advantages which have flowed from unrestricted trade among the people of our States, it is strange that no effort had been made or movement inaugurated to secure free commerce with our neighbors on this continent, until in January, 1884, when I introduced in Congress the proposition to form an American Zollverein or Customs Union of the nations in the Western Hemisphere.

That proposition was at once favored by the most of the press of this country. Its advantages were quickly seen by Congress and favorable action has already followed.

That proposition does not embrace Canada or any of the European provinces, but is confined to the republics south of us, and the Empire of Brazil. I had no doubt when I drafted that measure that immense mutual advantages would result from such a union with Canada, and the Dominion would have been included, but I did not then suppose it practicable to form such an arrangement with any of the provinces of European countries, without extending similar privileges to the mother governments. Since then, however, the opinions of eminent Canadian statesmen and writers, who understand the feeling and sentiment of the British public, have led me to believe that free commerce with Canada may be secured with the consent of the home government or at least without its effectual opposition.

Aside from a common nationality every argument that can be urged for free trade among our States, can with equal propriety be presented in behalf of a commercial union with Canada, and it may be confidently expected that similar advantages to the peace, prosperity, and happiness of both countries will follow such an arrangement. A double line of custom houses between Ontario and New York is as unwise and injurious to both as custom houses would be if placed between Indiana and Kentucky. Indeed all reasonable men on this side the Atlantic must admit that commerce upon the St. Lawrence and the great lakes should be as unrestricted for the people on their borders as it is to those on the Mississippi and the Ohio.

Such a union would do away with all grounds of dispute that may arise from commercial interests, and put an end to the vexatious fishery question. Its advantages to all the provinces in the Dominion are clearly apparent. They would have free access for their products to the markets of all our States, and a certainty of

sufficient revenue to support the government of the Dominion. Some such a basis for the union ought to be adopted as that of the German Zollverein which by long experience has proven to be feasible and just. It provides for the appointment of customs receipts on the basis of population. Whilst this would probably require the United States to make some sacrifice in the distribution of the proceeds of the customs collections, yet the advantages otherwise gained by us will fully compensate for any such sacrifice. We would receive the much needed raw materials of Canada in exchange for our manufactured articles, and greatly extend our foreign market by adding to our commerce many millions which now go elsewhere. It would open a free market in all the Canadian provinces for our agricultural, manufactured, and mineral products, protected from the competition of all other countries.

There is less likelihood of competition, because of similarity of our own and Canadian products than to some appear, for as I have heretofore remarked: "There is a greater degree of reciprocity of trade on lines of longitude than on lines of latitude. In one case there is a similarity of products because there is a similarity of climate, whereas in the others the products are different because of the difference of climate."

A very important reason for favoring a Customs Union with Canada is that its success will encourage a similar arrangement with the southern countries, and hasten the formation of a Zollverein of all the countries on the American continent. Seeing the benefits that will result to both countries, those south of us will seek admission into the Union. Mexico would probably be the first to accept our invitation to abolish the customs line between us, and the Central American and most of the South American States before long would likewise desire the enjoyment of unrestricted trade with their northern neighbors.

A commercial union with Canada and the southern countries is the surest and most effectual means that can be adopted to enlarge our foreign markets, rebuild our merchant marine and navy, develop our resources, and employ our surplus capital and labor.

Such a union should of course be purely commercial and in no sense political. It is not wise or beneficial for us to form entangling political alliances in any quarter. Our people are contented with the area now subject to the sovereignty of the republic. They believe in Home Rule. Now, as hereafter, with our ever increasing population, our present and future generations will have enough to do to wisely govern themselves and preserve our free institutions.

All previous suggestions looking to closer relations with other American countries were more political in their nature than commercial, and therefore they have been unwelcome to our own people, and were repelled by the other countries. Our people have no inclination for a "Jingo" policy or dominion over weaker neighbors. Those countries will welcome us if we approach them with offers of commercial alliance. When Congress sent a commission in 1884 and 1885 to the southern countries to ascertain their feeling towards the formation of an American Zollverein or Customs Union, it received assurances in nearly all the countries visited of an earnest desire for such an arrangement.

R. W. TOWNSHEND.

Shawneetown, Ill., May 6, 1887.

#### REVIEWS.

##### RECENT FICTION.

**THE FEUD OF OAKFIELD CREEK.** A Novel of California Life. By Josiah Royce. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

**THE STRIKE IN THE B—MILL.** (Round Robin Series.) Boston: Ticknor & Co.

**HARCOURT, OR A SOUL ILLUMINED.** By Annie Somers Gilchrist. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

**THE BRIDE OF THE NILE.** By Georg Ebers. Translated from the German by Clara Bell. New York: W. S. Gottsberger.

**M** R. BRET HARTE and other writers have made us familiar with certain phases of California life,—the life which goes on in camps and shanties, among pioneers, border ruffians and Spanish bravoes, equipped with derringers, and bowie knives, but here is a really promising novel which shows us the San Francisco of to-day, where miners, traders, and speculators have grown rich, and as Horace says, having amassed wealth, seek for virtue. "The Feud of Oakfield Creek" is a story about a contested land-title, but the feud is chiefly a personal quarrel between two men, Alonzo Eldon, one of these pioneer millionaires, and Alf Escott, a clever unsuccessful journalist. These men had in early days been the closest friends; then had become bitter enemies. Fate had been busy in binding their affections to each other, yet separating them by every event and accident of their two careers. Eldon has succeeded in all his undertakings; Escott has known nothing but failure. Eldon has gone into every sure enterprise connected with the

growth and development of the region. Escott has espoused all the doubtful and ruinous ones. Both are capital figures: Eldon is hard, grim, relentless in certain ways, yet soft at heart, full of idealism, knowing the sins of his own life and longing to redeem them by superlative acts of virtue. He desires to benefit his city and the State; he has a scheme for endowing a great university and making San Francisco the very centre of learning and the arts. He intends to transplant to this new soil the very blossom of European culture; to purchase literary, scientific, and art collections which shall be unsurpassed; to bring over the best European scholars; import talent and genius, regardless of expense. He thinks twenty-four millions of dollars will do it. He wants Escott's sympathy and co-operation. But the bitterness between the two friends began because of Escott's foolish scruples about Eldon's ways of making money. "Alf was always accusing me," Alonzo Eldon told his daughter-in-law. "I'd milked the State, he said, like a cow; and now I proposed to make a gift of the butter and cheese to the public who owned the cow, he said, to get glory for my generosity." The making up of this quarrel, the opposite characters of the two old men, yet their actual dependence on each other for sympathy and aid, is excellently rendered.

The author has given us at least three admirable portraits in his book, drawing them with a vigor and freshness which makes them life-like, and investing the picture, besides, with a breadth of detail which is racy and suggestive. In fact we have behind Eldon and Escott the local color of all California history and all present San Francisco. Besides these two chief characters, there is Boscowitz, the manager of a journal called *The Warrior*, a newspaper which everybody reads and must read, because it is so varied, so interesting, so piquant. "It was a singular and most diabolical combination, this paper, of cleverness, wisdom, and taste with immorality of many sorts, political and social, and even on many occasions with positive indecency." Boscowitz's history, his present tactics, his relations with the society which it is his effort to depict in its every phase, are clearly put before us. Everything in the book, indeed, which is drawn from life, San Francisco society, California experience, the shallow half-civilization which characterizes the rich people who have the ease which comes from unlimited wealth and generous ambition, is so well depicted that one says at times, "Here is a new master of American fiction!" But clever, even brilliant, though Mr. Royce's conception of his story is, it is marred by bad handling and an inartistic way of seizing the least effective points. He allows the characters to narrate their own experience when he could better have incorporated it into the narrative; he goes forward and back, and makes too many allusions to events outside the scenes of his own drama. Then, besides, clear though his perception is concerning the implications of public life, we do not like the romantic part of his story, nor are we willing to accept its moral. The heroine, Margaret Eldon, is apparently intended to be a typically noble woman. She is a law unto herself and to her husband also; she consents to live with him only on distant terms, treating him civilly but confessing to herself and to others that she hates him. Shortly after her marriage to him she has made the discovery that although he has loved no woman but herself, he had, at a period when he despaired of winning her, become engaged to Alf Escott's daughter, Ellen, who broke her heart over his marriage and finally committed suicide. This treason to herself and wrong to Ellen, Margaret will not forgive. Harshly as she measures her husband's weak-mindedness, however, Margaret herself walks open-eyed into a passionate love affair with a friend of her husband's and is indignant at being questioned concerning this intimacy by her father-in-law.

But apart from this false and foolish romance whose consequences are fatal to many lives, the book is vigorous, suggestive, and most promising of future brilliant work from the author.

"The Strike in the B—Mill" is little more than an amplification and discussion of the effects of the supposed tyranny of the "Knights of Labor," who are called in this little story the "Associates of Toil." The Associates order a strike which is kept up on one pretext after another, even when the first demands of the strikers have been fully acceded to by the managers of the B—mill. The question at issue then takes the form of a requirement that all the men in the mills who are not "Associates," and who did not go out on the "strike," shall be dismissed. This demand which is kept up by the leaders of the Associates renders the men idle, forces them into bad habits, and finally causes suffering, riots, and murder. The story is one with which the daily newspaper records have made us but too familiar, and which is important, when true. The remedy for many of the crying evils of the lives of factory operatives, according to the present author, is that they shall leave the crowded factory-towns, and become agriculturists,—settle in Canada and elsewhere. He argues, too, that whereas American wage-earners have no feeling of conflict between labor and capital, foreign workmen, by forming organiza-

tions like the "Associates of Toil," etc., have introduced the idea of the class distinctions and engrained animosities of European countries upon our own social scheme, where they have no place and are false both to the spirit and to the facts of our civilization. It may be doubted whether the success of the author in this field is very great: a fuller acquaintance with all the facts, and a comprehension that there are at least two sides to every question, would help him, —or her? —to a better foundation for such fiction.

"Harcourt, or a Soul Illumined" might easily have been a better book if the author had studied the works of good novelists and had looked at the facts of daily life judiciously. All human existences are a jumble of the heroic and the commonplace; but the historian who wishes to create an effect knows how to choose the points on which to spend his strength, and those which he must ignore. A keen sense of humor is an essential qualification for a novelist, also a feeling for proportion and good taste. For example, washing dishes is one of our most useful industries of domestic life, and Tolstoi could describe the operation so that it might seem not only valuable, but interesting. But when the author of "Harcourt" writes: "She fastened an apron of dark stuff on her dress and collecting the dishes in a large tin pan, poured a stream of hot water over them from a kettle [sic] that simmered on the stove. Then she dried them with a fresh towel and put them in the cupboard;" we are obliged to revolt. As to the necessity for a sense of humor we quote another instance. One of the many heroines remarks: "The truths you have just spoken are bitter but salutary. Give me that wrapper with the quilted lining, and my gaiters, please." You may laugh at this jumble, but it seems a distinct pity that an author should write with so little discrimination, when the exercise of careful choice and good taste might have made her pictures of life something worthy of attention.

"The Bride of the Nile" shows Egypt at that period of her history when the Moslem influence was growing stronger and contending with that of the Christian Greeks, while real Egyptian customs and superstition were waning. The story is overlaid by all the archaeological researches of Professor Ebers who is nothing if not curious in Egyptology, and the characters are a good deal obscured and crowded out by the wealth of historical and critical matter. Still there is a very well defined story, and if the characters are a little too much like the stock company of historical novels, they go through their several rôles with the dexterity attained by long practice. The title of the book, "The Bride of the Nile" refers to the old Egyptian custom, or tradition of a custom, of propitiating the God of the Nile by the offer of a virgin when the longed for inundation was delayed. The story is worked up with considerable skill to the climax, when Paula, the unfortunate heroine, is to be devoted to this sacrifice. As to whether or no this beautiful young creature is drowned in the waters of the river, or whether the catastrophe is averted, we shall be silent, referring all curious on the subject to the book itself.

**THE PROVINCES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE FROM CAESAR TO DIOCLETIAN.** By Theodore Mommsen. Translated with the Author's Sanction and Additions by William P. Dickson, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow. Two volumes. Pp. xvi. and 397; vi. and 396. 8vo. With Ten Maps by Prof. Kiepert. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

There can be no doubt that Prof. Mommsen ranks as the greatest of the modern historians of ancient Rome. In a list headed by Montesquieu and Gibbon, and continued to our own times by Barthold Niebuhr, Thomas Arnold, Schwiegler, George Long, Merivale and Wilhelm Ihne, he is the choragus, by virtue of more exhaustive learning if not always through greater gifts of presentation. The English reader, who knows him only through Dr. Dickson's translation of his "History of Rome"—in which these two volumes rank as fifth and sixth—will have a very inadequate idea of his labors in this field. In the study of the old Italian dialects, the collection and study of the Latin inscriptions, the detailed investigation of Roman antiquities, especially on the legal side, the settling of Roman chronology, and the history of Roman coinage, Dr. Mommsen takes rank as the highest authority through the publication of elaborate works. But it is in the immensity of his learning that his preëminence consists. In style he is always clear and forcible, but far below Arnold at his best; in the investigation of the difficult problems of early Roman history, his history marks a retrogression from the comparative method first applied by Niebuhr, and afterward with more discretion and patience by Ihne. And his love of paradoxical and bold combinations have led him to make statements which at times remind us of Jules Michelet. And his ethical theory is most objectionable. He quarreled with Bismarck and was sued for libel in 1881, because he called the chancellor's financial policy a *schwindel*, but it is the Bismarckian theory of the historical move-

ment which meets us in every page, and especially in the estimate of the greatest Roman of them all—Caius Julius Cæsar.

Having carried the story from the city standpoint down to the establishment of the Empire, Dr. Mommsen proceeds to give us the history from B. C. 44 to A. D. 284 in a decentralized narrative. Rome has forfeited her real place as the centre by the excess of her ambition. She has "bitten off more than she can chew,"—in our American phrase. Huge as she is, the provinces outweigh her, and in the aggregate are much more powerful. The Empire has contributed to this by depriving the people of the city of the governing power, and by putting down the rapacious aristocracy, and putting an end to the systematic plunder of the provincials by consuls and proconsuls, and lesser magnates. For the present Rome will remain the nominal capital; but the historian's interest will be divided between that and other centres.

To tell the history of those 318 years from a provincial point of view is to forego many opportunities for literary effect. Prof. Mommsen feels this when he speaks of his work as one of self-denial, as wanting in "charms of detail, pictures of feeling, sketches of character." But those who have any familiarity with the history of the Roman Empire before Diocletian revolutionized its methods of government, and his successors transformed its public religion, must recall a host of interesting problems as regards the provinces, on which Herr Mommsen has given us his judgment in these books. The student of English history, who has not decided to limit his horizon as Mr. Freeman does, will wish to know why the Romans invaded Britain, what was their reason for not conquering the whole island and also Ireland, and what was the extent to which the island was Romanized. Prof. Mommsen thinks Cæsar's first invasion had made the prosecution of his effort a matter of family pride with the Cæsars; that this consideration was reinforced by the fact that the Celts of Gaul and those of Southern Britain were of the same Cymric branch of the race, and closely associated by family and business ties. If Gaul was to be held, what now is England and Wales must be taken. But as the Celts of Ireland and the Highlands belonged to the Gadaelic branch of the race, the same reason did not apply to them. And he thinks that the rapid Romanization of the South Britons was due to the close influence of the Gauls, who had preceded in the process.

The chapter in Vol. II., which discusses Judea and the Jews, will find many interested readers. Prof. Mommsen well brings out the inability of the average Roman to understand the Jewish feeling about the separateness of their religion, and the consequent growth and final victory of the party of the Zealots, whose ultra-Judaism precipitated the ruin of the nation. The immense significance of this overthrow to both Judaism and Christianity, seldom has been better stated. It put the older faith into the background, as a mere conservatism; to the newer it opened a great career by divesting it of the external and internal prejudices which attached to it as a Jewish sect merely. We must complain that the historian too much ignores the vast significance which attaches to the rise of the Christian church in this period, and which affected the farthest corner of the empire, but especially Syria, Judea and Egypt. We know that the subject is a thorny one, and we should not be led to expect a satisfactory treatment of it by the few references our author does make. But to omit it is to leave out Hamlet; and Herr Mommsen has all but omitted it.

The story of the Romans in Germany furnishes as many as insoluble problems as in any part of the empire. Infinite has been the erudition expended on the exposition of the "Germania" of Tacitus, and the accounts of the campaigns of Varus, Drusus, Tiberius, Germanicus and Marcus Aurelius. Here we find Herr Mommsen's method a happy one. He pronounces his opinion boldly, and troubles his reader very seldom with his reasons for it. We think him quite in the right in understanding the terms Franks, Allemanni and Markmen (or Marcomanni) not as tribal, but as confederacy names the tribes thus united being those whose names appear much earlier in the story.

The excellent maps which Dr. Kiepert has prepared for this work are adapted exactly to its illustration. That they retain German designations and descriptions is of little importance, as the names of places are Latin throughout.

R. E. T.

**SOME PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY.** By Archibald Alexander, Professor of Philosophy in Columbia College. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1886.

It has been said that so long as the people of the United States were occupied actively in national and political development, philosophical studies would not flourish in this country. And it is true that in the past philosophy has played no great part in our literature. Just now, however, there are signs of an awakening interest in the philosophical sciences. This is attested by the size and enthusiasm of the classes in philosophy at the larger universities, and by the number of books on philosophical subjects that

are coming from the press. Fully half a dozen such of some importance have been published since the beginning of the year. Among these Prof. Alexander's book stands conspicuous; not because of its exhaustive treatment of its subject—for it is a mere sketch—but because of the tendency and standpoint it represents, and because of its vigor of style and presentation. The book is a protest against dilettantism and superficiality in philosophy, and the protest is made emphatic by the demonstration of the fact that the fundamental problems of philosophy are insoluble by any such superficial methods as are now too current. The author shows that many so-called philosophical difficulties are not real, but simply fictitious problems propounded by those who fancy that a year's study of a handbook of mental science is ample preparation for writing a work on metaphysics.

Professor Alexander calls attention to the fact that metaphysical questions may be approached either skeptically, by denying that they can be solved, dogmatically, by unhesitatingly answering them, or critically, by weighing the answer to each question separately in the fullest light of science. He then states tersely and from the critical standpoint some of the current philosophical problems. Among them are those as to the ultimate nature of matter, the origin of organic being, the relation of belief to knowledge, the immortality of the soul, the ethical conflict, the infinite, and the doctrine of a first cause. Prof. Alexander's vigorous use of formal logic will surprise many who have come to believe it to be an abandoned science, and we conceive that his ingenious and accurate disjunctions and dilemmas will sorely puzzle those who, being uncertain of their ground, prefer to accept a mediate position, or to quibble. This brief quotation from the chapter on immortality will serve to indicate the author's method: "If the soul is, it is either mortal or immortal. If it is immortal, then it is not dependent on the body, for the body after death is changed, and may be reduced to the form of substances which have no relation to the soul of man. If the soul is immortal, that immortality must be either known or unknown. If it is unknown, there is no proposition which is proven which asserts that the soul survives the body. If it is known, it must be known either directly or indirectly," and so on. The final chapter in the book is an extremely concise but tolerably thorough historical and critical résumé of the doctrine of cause and effect. We can conceive that Prof. Alexander's treatment of the various problems may be objected to as incomplete, but we fancy that completeness of treatment was not his aim. By merely indicating what the problems are and how difficult it is to solve them, he carries out his expressed desire to combat crude and superficial speculation. The book is a small one and handsomely made, and may be unreservedly commended to the thoughtful reader as an excellent example of what clear philosophical thinking and good philosophical writing really are.

N. M. B.

#### BRIEFER NOTICES.

"K NIGHT Errant" by Edna Lyall (D. Appleton & Co.), while a somewhat hysterical performance is a novel not without power. It has a very marked motive in the feeling of the leading part, and the narrative is fresh, varied, and picturesque. The hero sacrifices his own love and hope of happiness to secure the reputation and prosperity of his sister. The sacrifice is made to appear not altogether unreasonable, while it has proper elevation and pathos. The story has, moreover, an art atmosphere, and "musical people" may read it with interest. But when all is said it is not restful, as a really good book is sure to be, but feverish.

"Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit," (D. Appleton & Co.), is a handy arrangement of bright passages from the writings and sayings of Henry Ward Beecher, made with good judgment by Mr. William Drysdale. The compilation was not only made with Mr. Beecher's approval, but he had agreed to give it his personal revision which he had partially performed when death overtook him. Any one must be struck on turning the leaves of the book, with the range and vigor of Mr. Beecher's mind. The editor has appropriately divided his material under headings such as Love, Trouble, Temptation, Death, Morals, the Bible, the Family, etc., and upon every theme the Plymouth pastor throws a searching light.

#### AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

MESSRS. G. P. Putnam's Sons make the following additional announcements for the spring season: "7 to 12," a new story by Anna Katharine Green, author of the "Leavenworth Case;" "Told at Tuxedo," a series of tales by two writers; a new edition of "How to Travel," Mr. Thomas W. Knox's volume of suggestions, etc., to tourists; "Voice, Song, and Speech, A practical guide to singers and speakers from the point of view of vocal surgeon and voice trainer," by Lennox Browne, F. R. C. S., and Emil

Behnke; "The Curability of Insanity and the Individualized Treatment of the Insane," by Dr. John S. Butler, a Connecticut specialist on the subject. In the "Questions of the Day" series will appear "The Fishery Question," by Charles Isham. This is announced as presenting a summary of its history and an analysis of the issues involved, together with a full bibliography of authorities to be consulted, and a map of the fishing grounds.

James Grant, the English novelist and military historian, who died in London on the 6th inst., aged 64, was one of the most prolific of modern writers,—the titles of his books fill nearly a column of the "Men of the Time,"—but he was not very well known in this country. Among the most popular of his novels are "Jack Chaloner" and "The White Cockade." He made the study of Scottish antiquities a specialty, as in "The Master of Aberfeldie." Among his historical works may be mentioned "British Battles on Land and Sea," and "Old and New Edinburgh." He occupied in this field ground somewhat similar to that of the Americans, Headley and Lossing.

It is stated that M. Coquelin's article on "Acting and Actors" was translated for *Harper's* by Mrs. Andrew Lang. It is an excellent piece of work.—By a year from this time we may look for the fourth volume of Schouler's "History of the United States," bringing the narrative down to the close of the Mexican War.—Prof. Henry Morley has begun his "Attempt toward a History of English Literature," which the English journals predict, if Mr. Morley is enabled to carry out his plan, will be his most important literary achievement. The work is to be completed in 20 volumes, published half-yearly.—The American Historical Association will hold its fourth annual meeting in Boston and Cambridge, May 21-24. Among important papers to be read will be contributions from Hon. John Jay, Dr. Charles J. Stillé, Prof. A. M. Wheeler, and Prof. Moses Coit Tyler.

A change has taken place in the firm of G. P. Putnam's Sons. Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, the special partner, retires and Mr. Walter Howe takes his place—Mr. William Lee of the Boston publishing firm of Lee & Shepard recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his entrance into the book trade.—A memorial volume of the late Professor Youmans is to be prepared by his brother and sister, W. J. and Eliza Youmans. It will contain a number of important and hitherto unpublished manuscripts and letters by Darwin, Spencer, Mill, Huxley, Tyndall, Lubbock, Agassiz, and other distinguished persons.

Mr. Fawcett has not been heard from again on the subject of his unfortunate play *The Earl*, but Mr. Riddle has written an apologetic letter to the Boston *Herald* for his share in the unseemly controversy.—We note also that Mr. G. P. Lathrop has written to the New York *Tribune* a letter in answer to the strictures in that newspaper on Mr. Lathrop's play of "Elaine." "The play," says the Boston *Transcript*, "may be as bad as the *Tribune* pronounced it, but the author is to be credited with the production of a successful rejoinder to the criticism in the *Tribune*."

The series of lectures by Andrew P. Peabody, D. D., LL. D., Emeritus Professor of Christian Morals in Harvard University, which were published recently in book form by Lee & Shepard, Boston, with the title, "Harvard Lectures on Moral Philosophy," are now to be issued with the new name, "Christian Morals," for purposes of distinction from the author's earlier work.

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps has a woman suffrage novel in hand.—Mr. Cable has completed a sequel to "Caranco" and "Grande Pointe," making a story twice as long as either of those, called "Au Large."—Mrs. General Logan denies that she is writing a novel. She says her talents do not lie in that direction, and that even if she had the ability she has not the inclination at present to indulge in the production of fiction.

The late Spring Trade sale was in every respect a great success. The prices on the average reached those of the Fall sale; in fact many intending purchasers withdrew, declaring they could buy better outside. One of the features of the sale was a lot of "Grant's Memoirs," which sold at \$3.75, but do not appear in the catalogue.

The George Eliot *édition de luxe* of Messrs. Estes & Lauriat will shortly be begun with "Daniel Deronda," for which Frederick Dielman has made a noble drawing of *Gwendolen*.—Mrs. General Fremont is writing the life of Kit Carson, the Scout who guided the "Pathfinder" across the Rocky Mountains.—A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, will be the American publishers of Wharton & Symonds "Sappho." It will include a fac-simile of a newly-discovered fragment of the works of the poetess, from the Egyptian Museum in Berlin.

We have already mentioned the dissolution of the firm of White, Stokes & Allen. Some added particulars will be found of interest. Mr. J. Parker White and Mr. Frank Allen of the old firm have become partners in an exclusively wholesale publishing

venture at 94 Wall Street, New York. They expect to show a number of dainty novelties for the Fall trade. Mr. Frederick A. Stokes has purchased the interests of his partners in the old firm, with the entire list of publications of the concern, and will continue business at 182 Fifth Avenue.

Mr. John C. Buckbee, who has been an active partner in the firm of S. C. Griggs & Co. for fifteen years recently withdrew therefrom.

Various memoranda of the diary kind and a large amount of correspondence have been discovered among the papers of Ranke, the historian. There is also the manuscript of a lecture which Ranke once delivered before King Max of Bavaria, at Berchtesgaden, and which was taken down in stenography and afterward transcribed for him. This lecture dealt with the history of the Middle Ages, and contained various maxims of government. But the most important of Ranke's papers are the academic lectures, which deal with the period from the Crusades to the Reformation. These are to be used as a part of "The History of the World," and without alteration.

"Copyright, National and International," is the title of a work to be published at once by Sampson Lord & Co.—The Dowager Countess of Harrington is writing a second volume of "Plays for Young People."—The German critic, Fritz Mauthner, has written a book called "From Keller to Zola." His enthusiasm for the Swiss poet is as unbounded as his aversion to the French novelist.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will publish immediately a "History of the Legislative Union of Great Britain and Ireland," by Mr. T. Dunbar Ingram, LL.D., formerly Professor of Jurisprudence in the Presidency College, Calcutta.

The "complete novel" in *Lippincott's Magazine* for June will be "The Whistling Buoy," by Charles Barnard. To the same issue Miss Anne H. Wharton will contribute a paper giving the history of the old "Wistar Parties,"—a theme tolerably well worn locally, but which may interest many readers to whom the history of Philadelphia's social life and growth in culture is not already a twice-told tale.

The new (monthly) series of the *Westminster Review* sets off well in the April issue, with a number of articles of particular interest. Among these are "Home Rule in the United Kingdom," a historical paper; "The Protectionist Revival in Great Britain;" and an article on "The Organization of the Liberal Party," with special reference to the work of Mr. Schnadhorst, the famous Birmingham organizer, who stands with Mr. Gladstone, and whose influence Mr. Chamberlain has especial reason to dread. (Leonard Scott Publication Co., Philadelphia.)

#### PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THE New Orleans *Times-Democrat* takes to task the writer of the article in *Harpers* on "The Recent Movement in Southern Literature," for omitting mention of Mrs. M. E. M. Davis and Mrs. Mary Ashley Townsend, and for what it regards as an inappropriate allusion to Sidney Lanier.

The proprietors of *The Cosmopolitan* find they cannot issue their June number in New York, as they expected to, and so will send it out from the old office in Rochester. The July issue is to appear however from New York—29 Park Row.

A new monthly magazine called *Home Knowledge*, edited by Dr. Robert A. Gunn, and published at 45 E. 22d street, New York, makes a good start. Joel Benton, Julian Hawthorne and Dunn Piatt contribute.

*Shakespeariana* for May has a number of thoughtful articles. "The Drama and the State," by Anna B. McMahon, is an argument for the civilizing value of the theatre and the duty of government to promote its benefits. "Shakespeare at School" by Wm. J. Rolfe, tells the story of the great poet's school days, and Prof. W. T. Thorn in "Henry IV.," continues his valuable course of Shakespearian Historical Reading. The Miscellany, Society Proceedings, etc., are very full.

The English journal, *Brain*, is to be the organ of the Neurological Society of London, hereafter. It will be published by Macmillan & Co.

*The Illustrated London News* is to print a special "American Edition,"—from duplicate plates furnished by the London publishers to agents in New York. It will be sold for ten cents; less than it costs at home.

The Chicago *Open Court* has secured two essays from Prof. Max Müller,—"The Identity of Language and Thought," and "The Simplicity of Language."

Dr. Daniel G. Brinton severed his connection as editor of the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* and the *Quarterly Compendium of*

*Medical Science*, on the 1st inst. Dr. Brinton considered certain improvements in those journals necessary and the proprietor did not view the business in the same light,—hence the change. Dr. Brinton declares in a card to publishers that it is not his intention to retire from medical journalism and that he hopes in the early autumn to announce his connection with a new journal.

Mr. J. Elliot Cabot's charming "Glimpse of Emerson's Boyhood" in the May *Atlantic* has attracted much attention. It is a pleasant foretaste of his biography of Emerson, the publication of which has been postponed until the autumn.

The House of Representatives will be described by Z. L. White in the *American Magazine* for June, with portraits and sketches of prominent Congressmen, under the heading of "The Nation's Lawmakers."

Mr. A. Lawrence Lowell will contribute an article on "The Theory of the Social Compact" to the June number of the *Atlantic*. A paper on "Nursery Classics in School," by Horace E. Scudder, will appear in the same number.

#### ART NOTES.

PHILADELPHIA landscape and marine painters have united in holding an exhibition and sale of such works as they happened to have on hand at the close of the season. There were one or two figure subjects by Mr. George C. Lambdin and others, but the collection was in the main as above stated—landscape. Selling pictures is as much a business as selling dry goods, and it is as legitimate to hold a clearing sale in the one case as in the other, provided the matter is fully understood by all parties. When preparing to close their studios for the summer the artists find they have a certain or rather an uncertain number of pictures on hand which for one reason or another have not found purchasers during the winter. The presumption is that these works are not all beautiful, delightful, charming beyond description, of absorbing interest and altogether lovely—the kind of pictures that collectors cry for and no gallery should be without. If they had been the chances are some one would have discovered the fact, and some of them at least would have been bought in the studio. It goes without saying that such a collection must necessarily be of a miscellaneous character, good, bad and indifferent hung up together without arrangement or discrimination. At the same time it is only fair to add that there were in this collection many works of merit, fairly representing the best abilities of the painters.

Mr. Homer Martin, who has been residing abroad during the past ten years, has returned to the field of American landscape art, and his work is once more seen in current exhibitions. Of his contribution to the American Artists' Exhibition, *The Tribune* says: "Mr. Homer Martin has concerned himself as little as usual with 'truth of facts' in his large 'Behind the Dunes, Lake Ontario,' but he has admirably suggested the desolation and spaciousness of the scene in a picture rich and harmonious in color and large in design, a noble example of imaginative work which should have been better placed in the gallery."

A movement has been started in New York to endow the schools of the National Academy of Design with a permanent fund large enough to provide for the improvements which have long been sorely needed. The schools want new class rooms, capacious, well lighted, well ventilated, and equipped with adequate collections of casts, prints, photographs, etc. Also a good library and reading room. A regular income should be provided to afford decent salaries for competent teachers, and there should be a further annual sum appropriated to traveling scholarships. To meet these needs a large amount of money will be required, but men of wealth in New York have recently shown such a willing spirit in contributing liberally to promote the welfare of art in the metropolis that the friends of the Academy schools are encouraged to hope for good results in the present undertaking.

Experience has shown that the traveling scholarship is the most desirable prize that can be offered to art students. It is to be regretted that the Pennsylvania Academy has not such command of its prize funds as would enable the Directors to offer an annual award of this character. There is money enough available for prizes to send the best student of the life class abroad every year; but unfortunately the funds are by prescription devoted to other purposes. These, it must be said, are not, under the present management of the Academy, very well subserved. The intention is to stimulate the production of pictures among the students by rewarding those who contribute the best works to the annual exhibitions of the Academy. But this is not a direct competition, for the reason that the students' work is submitted to a Hanging Committee the members of which are supposed to know nothing about the schools. The Hanging Committee is concerned in selecting

pictures that will make a good exhibition, and the students' work is compared with that of the best painters who can be induced to contribute. The chances are about ten to one that the students' pictures will be thrown out. Knowing this, they do not enter the competition; and, as a consequence, the Directors of the Academy at the recent exhibition were at a loss to find recipients for their prizes. A traveling scholarship to be awarded at the close of each school year, not by competition but by the Committee of Instruction and the teachers of the life class, would be far more effective than all the present prizes put together.

Mr. J. Travis Murphy wins the prize of \$300 in the competition of the Society of American Artists. The prize is for the best landscape painted by an American under 40 years of age, and contributed to the Society's annual exhibition. The competition this year included many of the best known names among the younger American landscape painters, and the standard of merit at the exhibition was unusually high. Mr. Murphy has, therefore, been awarded an honor which will add to his already enviable répute, and one of which he may well be proud. The prize picture, entitled "Brook and Field," is spoken of as "a charming work, well composed, with a good distance and a luminous sky."

Mr. T. C. Farren, an American artist residing in London, tells a pitiful story in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. From his card it appears that F. H. Potter, a young English artist of great promise, has just died of sheer starvation. He was too proud to make his extreme want known. Although he was a good painter, he had no skill in selling his pictures or in making himself known. Two years ago he had a picture on line at the Royal Academy. This year he has a picture in a prominent place in the Grosvenor Gallery, entitled "A Quiet Corner." Several months ago this beautiful picture was pawned for eighteen shillings, and was only redeemed with great difficulty. His death from starvation while his last and best picture was the subject for praise from critics, has made a positive sensation in art circles.

#### SCIENCE NOTES.

**A**n article in the *Railroad Gazette* by Mr. T. C. Martin, reviewing the recent progress of electric railway building in this country, is very impressive in its showing. A road constructed on the Daft system has now been successfully running for two years in Baltimore, and one in Los Angeles, several months. This company is also constructing or about to construct lines in Pittsburg, Pa.; Orange, N. J.; Mansfield, O.; and Ithaca, N. Y. The Van Depoele Co. of Chicago, another very energetic introducer of electric roads, has now roads on its system in operation in Port Huron and Detroit, Mich.; Appleton, Wis.; Windsor, Ont.; Scranton, Pa.; and Montgomery, Ala. This last named city has eleven miles of roads in operation. In Denver there is an electric road in operation constructed on what is known as the Short-Nesmith system, using an underground tube to carry the current-conductor. In Detroit, Mich., a three-mile road uses the Fisher overhead system, and Pittsburg is to have a line built immediately, on the same system. The places which are now having electric roads built are almost too numerous to mention. Mr. Martin expressing the opinion that over fifty of these will have electric roads running within a year. Something of a novelty is contemplated at Ansonia, Conn., where a railroad three and a half miles long is in process of construction which it is designed to drive by electricity generated by Housatonic Falls.

The forthcoming report of the Department of Agriculture on the English sparrow is expected to be a very interesting document. It will contain about four hundred printed pages, in which will appear the experiences of about thirty-two hundred people with this destructive biped. Dr. Merriam, the ornithologist of the department, who has charge of the preparation of the report, says that the indictment against the sparrow is a terrible one; and it has scarcely a friend in the whole country. Farmers who devote their time to the cultivation of grain, report that the sparrows, wherever they are thick, do frightful damage to cereals. Market-gardeners and the raisers of small-fruit, in the vicinity of cities, say that since sparrows began to multiply, the profits of market-gardening have almost vanished. The only known use for the sparrow is as a substitute for reed-birds. One man in Albany, N. Y., reports that he sells hundreds of dozens of sparrows every month to the restaurants in that city for reed-birds. They make excellent table-birds.

The initial publication of the Henry Draper memorial is issued by Professor Pickering as the "First annual report of the photographic study of stellar spectra, conducted at the Harvard college observatory." With the Draper 11-inch photographic telescope, excellent spectra have been obtained; and Mrs. Draper has decided to send to Cambridge a 28-inch reflector and its mounting, and a 15-inch mirror, with which Dr. Draper's photographs of the

moon were taken. But, what is more important, Mrs. Draper has not only provided the means for keeping these instruments actively employed, some of them during the whole of every clear night, but also of reducing the results by a considerable force of computers, and of publishing them in a suitable form.

The number of persons of unsound mind in England and Wales, Jan. 1, 1886, as reported to the commissioners in lunacy, was 80,156, exclusive of 248 chancery lunatics, residing with their committees, and 81 insane convicts,—a gross increase during the year of only 452 patients. The number of registered lunatics in Scotland on the same date, apart from 62 persons in the lunatic department of the general prison at Perth, and 230 imbeciles in training-schools, who are registered separately, was 10,895,—an increase for the year of 268. The total number in Ireland was 14,415,—an increase of 136. This gives an aggregate of 105,466 insane (including some idiots with them) in public and private institutions for lunatics or establishments for paupers, or boarded out, and subject to governmental inspection; and the total increase in twelve months was 856.

Vice-President Charles N. Bell, of the Manitoba Historical Society, read a paper recently on the burial mounds in the Canadian Northwest, in which he expressed the opinion that enough remains of the former inhabitants of that country have been discovered in Manitoba and the valley of the Red River of the North to afford a sound basis to the opinion which has often been expressed, that the mound-builders of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys had migrated there from the north. From Lake Traverse, in Minnesota, where the Red River takes its rise, to Lake Winnipeg into which it empties, he says there is a practically continuous line of these burial mounds, and such examination of them as has been made seems to point conclusively to the race-identity of their builders with the builders of the more southern mounds. No copper instruments have been found in any of the Red River mounds as yet, although such are plentiful in many of the mounds in other districts; but some of the pottery has been found to be identical with that of the mounds near St. Paul, Minnesota, both in material and style of ornamentation, and some polished and ornamental sea-shells are like those from mounds in Tennessee, and were, no doubt, obtained from the Gulf of Mexico in both cases. In conclusion Mr. Bell points out that the point to which these mounds have now been traced is very near tide-water on streams emptying near the Asiatic shore, and that it is very easily possible that this may indicate an original migration of the mound-builders from Asia.

An extraordinary case of suspended animation is reported from Thenelles, a town in France. The subject is a young woman, twenty-five years of age, and since the 20th of May, 1883, she has been continuously in a state of deep sleep. She has been examined by physicians and specialists a number of times, and recently by a select committee; and from their observations it was learned that her sleep resembled a lethargic torpor in which her respiration was normal, and her pulse, although feeble, was found to be rapid—about 100 pulsations a minute. Every attempt to arouse her from her stupor has proved unsuccessful, and the senses appear closed to every influence. Sounds, pinching, blows, piercing the body with a needle, alike have no effect. She was in a very delicate state of health before falling into the lethargy, was of a nervous, "highly strung" temperament, and was thrown into a series of convulsions by a sudden fright which was followed by the deep sleep from which she has never been aroused.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

LES MISÉRABLES. Par Victor Hugo. Première Partie. FANTINE. Pp. 462. Paper. \$1.00. New York: W. R. Jenkins.

LE CHIEN DU CAPITAINE. Par Louis Enault. (Contes Choisis, No. 12.) Pp. 158. \$0.25. New York: W. R. Jenkins.

RURAL HOURS. By Susan Fenimore Cooper. (New and Revised Edition.) Pp. 347. \$1.25. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

PHILADELPHIA 1681-1887. A History of Municipal Development. By Edward P. Allinson, and Boies Penrose. (Johns Hopkins University Studies. Extra Volume II.) Pp. 392. \$3.00. Philadelphia: Allen Lane & Scott.

REPORT OF THE [U. S.] COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, FOR THE YEAR 1884-'85. 8vo. Pp. 848. Washington: Government Printing Office.

THE BLIND BROTHER. A Story of the Pennsylvania Coal Mines. By Homer Greene. Pp. 190. \$—. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

DEUTSCHE NOVELETTEN-BIBLIOTHEK. [German Novelettes for School and Home. Selected from the Best Modern Writers, with Notes.] By Dr. Wilhelm Bernhardt. Pp. 182. \$0.80, by mail. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

ZURY: THE MEANEST MAN IN SPRING COUNTY. A Novel of Western Life. By Joseph Kirkland. Pp. 538. \$1.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

HENRY WARD BEECHER: A SKETCH OF HIS CAREER, [ETC.] By Lyman Abbott, D. D., assisted by Rev. B. J. Halliday. Pp. 670. 8vo. Hartford, Conn.: American Publishing Co. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)

## DRIFT.

**M**R. EDWARD ATKINSON makes the following statements regarding work and wages in the current number of the *North American Review*:

"At the present time the average rate of wages in the United States in nearly every art which is of any material importance is higher than ever before; higher, even, with very few exceptions, than at the worst period of paper money inflation in 1865, '66 and '67. On the other hand, the prices of the necessities of life are lower than they have been since 1840. If we compute wages both in rate and in purchasing power of men of special skill and aptitude who are now occupied as foremen, overseers, or in the very highest departments of the mechanic arts, they are 100 per cent. better off than at the date named for comparison, to wit: 1865, '67. The average mechanic or artisan is 76 per cent. better off. The common laborer is 65 per cent. better off. There has been a short period during the last five years when a good many common laborers were out of employment owing to the sudden cessation of railway building between 1882 and 1884. In the same period a very small portion of the operatives in iron works and other artisans found it difficult to obtain work. The number unemployed was, I think, much exaggerated. That period has gone by. There is work now waiting to be done for every industrious man and woman who will accept the conditions on which it is offered; and those conditions are as a rule, better than they ever were before, the exceptions being in some of the most crowded parts of a few large cities."

The *Charleston News and Courier* speaks in complimentary terms of the annual inspection and review of the First regiment of National Guards of South Carolina, the First battalion of cavalry, and the battalion of infantry from the sea islands, all being colored troops. There were seventeen companies all told, including a cavalry battalion of fifty men.

The yacht races this year will probably be the finest contests ever seen in American waters. To try conclusions with the new Scotch cutter, the *Thistle*, General Paine of Boston is building a steel center-board sloop, designed by Burgess expressly to beat his previous efforts, the *Puritan* and *Mayflower*. These old favorites will also probably be on hand, and Mr. Canfield is remodelling the *Priscilla*, so that she will carry 500 square feet more of canvas. A syndicate of the New York Yacht club is said to have ordered a new yacht with the hope of beating both the Scotchmen and the Bostonians.—*Harford Courant*.

In the extreme southwest corner of Louisiana lies what is claimed to be the largest producing farm in the world. It contains 1,500,000 acres of land, and is operated by a syndicate of Northern capitalists. All the cultivating, ditching, etc., is done by steam power. The Southern Pacific Railroad runs for thirty-six miles through the farm. Three steamboats are running on the waters of the same estate; also an ice-house, bank, ship-yard, and rice mill belong to the same.

According to the veteran correspondent of the *Chicago Times* the newspaper men have got into the habit of praising Secretary Whitney and of ridiculing Secretary Endicott, because the former is always affable and communicative, while the latter is usually the reverse. But the veteran asserts that the newspaper men are not exactly right in this: that prominent naval officers say that under Secretary Whitney there is altogether too much politicking and too little discipline in naval matters; and this criticism is made by officers who are politically in sympathy with Mr. Whitney.

The much disputed question of the fate of General Gordon is revived by no less a person than Sir Richard Burton. This eminent traveler sends to "The Academy" as worthy of consideration a transcript from a letter written in November last by one Sulayman Kabsun, of Assiout, a young man who was educated in England and is now connected with an American mission school in Egypt. "There was a man," writes this Egyptian, "came from Khartoum, and said that he was one of General Gordon's soldiers, and he said that General Gordon had a steamboat and went down to the South, and there was a Turkish soldier whose face was like his, and they killed him and said it was General Gordon." This is in line with numerous theories that have from time to time been plausibly supported; but unhappily the weight of evidence is strongly against them all, though of course absolute proof of Gordon's death has not been made.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

There are some interesting names found in the list of the Fiftieth Congress. Curious baptismal names abound. Among them are Jehu, Hilary, Adoniram, Knute, Cherubusco, Beriah, and Weltry. There is a Baker, a Fisher, a Weaver, a Cooper, a Mason, a Glover, a Hunter, a Miller, a Brewer, a Granger, a Turner, a Taylor, and a Sawyer. The colors represented are White, Gray and Brown. There is only one Hogg among the members.

A dispatch from Cincinnati (April 30) says: Hon. William Macdougall, of Ottawa, Ontario, ex-Governor of Manitoba, and the leader of the Liberals of Canada, opposed to Sir John Macdonald, is a guest at the residence of Mr. George K. Shoenberger, in Clifton. He said to-day: "I think there is a great desire among the people of all the provinces to secure more free and friendly relations with the United States—in other words, a commercial union. These are satisfactory reasons why new and friendly arrangements are desired by the people of Canada. Some are contending for a complete commercial union to the extent of having the same Tariff as against the rest of the world and, therefore, free trade with the United States. There are serious difficulties which present themselves to my mind in respect to a complete commercial union, in this, that I do not well see how we are to secure, in that case, our due proportion of the revenue derived from the high tariff as against the rest of the world; for instance, our ports are partially closed in Winter, and imports for our people would, of necessity, during that

time be taken to ports of the United States where the import duties would be collected. How to make a convenient and equitable division would be a problem. Then other matters would have to be considered. A large portion of the population of the United States is of a class not found in Canada, and consumes but few of the importations from abroad. I think, however, that a satisfactory arrangement could be made."

May a clergyman wheel his own baby in a perambulator? One would suppose that he might, but not so think the people of Edinburgh. There a clergyman was seen carrying his baby. His horrified congregation presented him with a perambulator, but his last state was worse than his first, for he wheeled this vehicle along the streets with his baby in it. This insult to the "genteel" susceptibilities of his congregation was too much; and he received a letter politely informing him that, while his abilities gave satisfaction, his pastoral services would no longer be required.—*Truth, London*.

Speaker Carlisle is a little premature when he says that the mugwumps are likely to become "good Democrats." They will go with the Democrats just so far as the Democrats go their way, and no farther. And when they go with the Democrats they will not feel obliged to "go the whole hog." The mugwump is an independent-acting, self-regulating thinking machine, with a voting attachment; and Democrats will do well not to forget it.—*Boston Herald*.

The debate upon the Irish question has degenerated, in the London *Times*, into accusing the Irish leaders of lying and connivance at assassination. The last instance is the charge of the *Times* against Mr. Dillon, which Mr. Lewis, in moving that the House take notice of it, described as a "wholesale charge of lying." The course of the *Times* in this instance, as in regard to the Parnell letter, is not that of an antagonist who has made fatal accusations which he knows to be true. It published the alleged letter of Parnell. Mr. Parnell instantly and in the most solemn manner denounced it as a forgery. The *Times* had then only to produce its proof of the genuineness of the letter to crush Mr. Parnell completely and to discredit the Irish movement. But it has merely dared Mr. Parnell to attempt to prove that he did not write it, in an action before a jury which could not but be bitterly hostile to him. This is the course of a journal which is unable to sustain the charge which it has made, and the odium of which therefore recoils upon itself. Its silence does not prove, indeed, that it deliberately published a forged letter knowing it to be forged. But it justifies the belief, upon the most favorable construction, that its fury with the Irish leaders had destroyed the sound editorial judgment which alone gives weight to opinion, and that its injurious assertions of fact as against those leaders must hereafter await confirmation before they can be accepted.

Trouble seems to be brewing among the professional "labor" leaders in New York. John Swinton—an older soldier in the cause than Henry George, if not a better—has published an article in his newspaper in which he accuses Henry and his crowd of pursuing a "rule or ruin" policy, pregnant with disorganization and disaster. "The Union Labor party," says Swinton, "invites harmonious action, but its invitation is repulsed, and official letters are sent out from the 'George headquarters' which bear the brand of disunion upon every line, and stand in antagonism to all who refuse to subscribe to the 'George theory' or take out a five-dollar charter for a 'Land and Labor Club.'"

A special dispatch from Pittsburgh to the *New York Tribune* gives the substance of an interview with Hon. J. B. Henderson, of Missouri, who was permanent president of the last National Republican Convention. Mr. Henderson says: "In order to win next year we must nominate a man who is able to carry the State of New York. I do not think that Mr. Blaine is able to carry New York. I said to him some time before the last National Convention: 'Blaine, I do not think you can carry New York. With the influences at work against you there among so-called Republicans, combined with the natural Democratic strength, I feel that your chances of success are small.' I think that Mr. Blaine was not so deeply interested in his candidacy and would willingly have given place to some other Republican had it not been for the influences that operated upon him and upon the convention. The partiality of Mr. Cleveland has kept warm the Mugwump's nest egg; and with an almost unbroken front the Mugwumps of 1884 will face Mr. Blaine if he is nominated in 1888, and in my opinion they will be more formidable than they were four years ago. They are the most dangerous of the Democratic allies. Allied to the Mugwumps, but not identified with them, are the disaffected Republicans who are not a few. These men are against Mr. Blaine and will not support him, even to maintain the integrity of their party organization. On the other hand, it is true that Mr. Blaine can carry more Irish votes than any other Republican who may be nominated. This fact was demonstrated in 1884. But it was also demonstrated that this accretion of votes was inferior to the secession of disaffected voters. Mr. Blaine is a magnificent Republican. He is a thorough Republican, one who has done valiant service for his party. I think too, that if he sees next year that the opposition to him then bears any relation to that of 1884 he will embargo the efforts of his friends by a positive refusal to allow the use of his name. Mr. Blaine was assured the last time by his friends that he could be elected without New York; that he could carry Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and possibly Tennessee. Mr. Blaine, or any other Republican, could not then carry any one of these States, nor can he or any other Republican carry them next year. The fact that some Republican successes were attained in Congressional districts in Virginia last year go for nothing in a State election. New York must be depended on to win the fight next year or it will not be won. Within a radius of forty miles of New York City Hall is the determining vote in the next Presidential contest."

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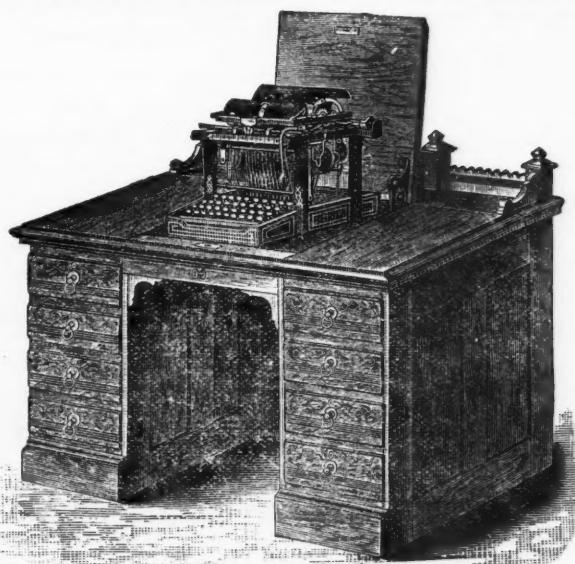
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